

Citizens may comment on a permit for the withdrawal of ground water in the City of Suffolk and Isle of Wight County, Virginia

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: May 22, 2005 to June 24, 2005

PERMIT NAME: Ground Water Withdrawal Permit

Any person or facility that proposes to withdraw 300,000 gallons per month or more in a ground water management area may have to submit a permit application to the Department of Environmental Quality, which is under the authority delegated by the State Water Control Board.

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: To invite the public to comment on the draft permit.

APPLICANT NAME, ADDRESS AND PERMIT NUMBER: Western Tidewater Water Authority (WTWA); 446 W. Washington St., Suffolk, VA 23434, GW0045800

NAME AND LOCATION OF WATER WITHDRAWAL: WTWA/City of Suffolk/Isle of Wight County; multiple withdrawal locations in the City of Suffolk and Isle of Wight County with the primary locations being at the G. Robert House Jr. Water Treatment Facility located on Wesley Lane off of Route 125 in Chuckatuck, VA., the Reids Ferry well at the Western Branch Reservoir off of Routes 10 and 32, northwest of Reids Ferry, VA., and a well to be developed in the Crittenden area of the City of Suffolk.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: WTWA has applied for a public water supply in the City of Suffolk and Isle of Wight County, Virginia. The permit would allow the applicant to withdraw an average of 8,344,575 gallons per day. The ground water withdrawal will support a public water supply for the City of Suffolk and portions of Isle of Wight County. The proposed withdrawal will utilize the upper and middle Potomac aquifers at a depth between approximately 356 feet to 1080 feet below the land surface at the withdrawal sites. Depths to the aquifers may vary considerably throughout the area of impact. An aquifer is a body of rock or layer of sediment in the ground in which ground water is stored and transported. DEQ has made a tentative decision to issue the permit.

HOW A DECISION IS MADE: After public comments have been considered and addressed by the permit or other means, DEQ will decide whether to issue the permit or to conduct a public hearing. DEQ may hold a public hearing, including another comment period, if public response is significant and there are substantial, disputed issues relevant to the proposed permit. If there is a public hearing, the State Water Control Board will make the final decision.

HOW TO COMMENT: DEQ accepts comments by e-mail, fax or postal mail. All comments must be in writing; contain a brief statement on how the proposal affects the person commenting, other users or the aquifer; and be received by DEQ during the comment period. The public also may request a public hearing. If a public hearing is requested, the written comments should also include the reason for holding a hearing and related factual concerns.

TO REVIEW THE DRAFT PERMIT AND APPLICATION: The public may review the documents at the DEQ Tidewater Regional Office every work day by appointment.

CONTACT FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS, DOCUMENT REQUESTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

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